

<b>Item No.</b> 4.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> December 7 2005	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Deputation requests	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor)	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear a deputation from the Friends of Camberwell Leisure Centre.
2. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear the deputation from the Black Awareness Group.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. When considering whether to hear each deputation request, council assembly can decide to:
  - Receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
  - That the deputation not be received; *or*
  - Refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. Only one member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. After this time members may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public gallery where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Deputation request from the Friends of Camberwell Leisure Centre

5. The deputation request from the Friends of Camberwell Leisure centre states:

“The Friends of Camberwell Leisure Centre (FCLC) first came into being as an informal group, the Friends of Camberwell Baths (FOCB), when the leisure centre was perceived to be under threat of closure in 1998/99.

“In the six years since it was formed, the FOCB (FCLC since end-2004) has had many meetings with council officials and with Fusion, who now manage all of the borough’s leisure centres. In those meetings we have seen a number of development proposals, scoping exercises, building condition surveys and architects plans, but no actual development. Small-scale repairs etc have been carried out, but it would be fair to say there has been no major

improvement in the condition of the centre over this long period and, indeed, in some areas it has deteriorated.

“As set out in our vision statement, we are now very keen to see some tangible progress in the development plans and to lend our very strong support, when that is needed. We understand that an agreement on Fusion’s long-term lease, a precursor to any redevelopment of the leisure centre under current plans, may be near to completion. We believe that this is the only realistic route towards ensuring the centre’s development and long-term future. We thus urge the council to:

1. Agree to the long-term lease and development proposals without delay.
2. Ensure that the development of Camberwell leisure centre is given priority. This is necessary because of the deteriorating condition of the centre.
3. Ensure that the centre’s users and local community’s needs and desires are met by the development programme and that these are taken into account by their participation in the planned redevelopment steering group.

“We have waited far longer than just the past six years for our leisure centre to be a thriving, welcoming key resource for the wide community it should serve. The centre’s redevelopment is long overdue – let us now work swiftly to making it a reality.”

#### **Deputation request from the Black Awareness Group**

6. The deputation request from the Black Awareness Group states: -

“The Black Awareness Group would like to bring to the attention of the Council the failure to engage with BME communities and businesses in the implementation of Lord Ouseley's report. In particular, the group wish to make representations about the future of the Equality and Diversity Strategic Reference Group and its detailed recommendations to resolve the problems faced by small businesses in Camberwell and the Elephant and Castle.

“The deputation is considered urgent since the final meeting of the Cross Party Working Group (Ouseley Review) is scheduled to take place on December 14.”

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

##### **Comments from the strategic director of environment and leisure – the Friends of Camberwell Leisure centre deputation**

To follow

##### **Comments from the chief executive – the Black Awareness Group deputation**

To follow

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Deputation Request File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	25.11.05